## Riverine Sand Flats - Bars Sparse Vegetation

| | |
|---|---|
| COMMON NAME | Riverine Sand Flats-Bars Sparse Vegetation |
| SYNONYM | Sandbar |
| TNC SYSTEM | Terrestrial |
| PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS | Sparsely Vegetated |
| PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS | Unconsolidated material sparse vegetation |
| PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP | Sparsely vegetated sand flats |
| FORMATION | Temporarily flooded sand flats |
| ALLIANCE | Sand Flat Temporarily Flooded Sparse Vegetation |

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

RANGE
This community occurs in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario. It is most common along larger rivers such as the Mississippi, Missouri, and Platte Rivers.

*Scotts Bluff National Monument*
It is restricted to the margins of the North Platte River channel.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION
*Globally*
This community is found on rivers and streams where frequent flooding changes the substrate. The soil is absent or sometimes poorly developed. Parent material is sand.

*Scotts Bluff National Monument*
This community occupies nearly level ground in the river channel. Soils consist of freshly deposited alluvial sand. This community is seasonally flooded.

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Riverine

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES
*Globally*

| Strata | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Cenchrus longispinus*, *Cyperus* spp., *Eragrostis trichodes*, *Polygonum lapathifolium*, and *Sporobolus cryptandra* |

*Scotts Bluff National Monument*

| Strata | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | Extremely variable |

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES
*Globally*
Information not available.

*Scotts Bluff National Monument*
Information not available.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION
*Globally*
Vegetation cover is sparse to sometimes moderate in this community. Ground cover is in the range of 20 60%. The predominant vegetation is herbaceous. Some young shrubs and trees may become established. Species found in the herbaceous layer are *Cenchrus longispinus*, *Cyperus* spp., *Eragrostis trichodes*, *Equisetum* spp., *Juncus* spp., *Polygonum lapathifolium*, and *Sporobolus cryptandra*. Small *Populus deltoids* and *Salix* spp. are the most common woody species.

*Scotts Bluff National Monument*
This community is very sparsely vegetated. It is mostly bare sand. Scattered annual species such as *Cyperus squarrosus* and *Eragrostis pectinacea* are present. Perennial hydrophytes, such as *Eleocharis erythropoda*, are sometimes present along the margin of this community.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK Information not available.

RANK JUSTIFICATION Information not available.

COMMENTS
*Globally and at Scotts Bluff National Monument*
This is a primary community. It develops on recently deposited or disturbed alluvial sand. It is a short-lived community. Either subsequent flooding destroys the plants or secondary communities develop on the site. Soil that is above the water table is prone to drought due to its poor water retaining capability. Species composition can vary greatly from year to year depending on timing and severity of flooding.

REFERENCES
The Nature Conservancy (TNC). 1991a. Missouri State Community Abstract, Sand Bar. Midwest Regional Office, Minneapolis, MN.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC). 1991b. Nebraska State Community Abstract**,** Sandbar. Midwest Regional Office, Minneapolis, MN.